

plant them and forget them

10 EASY PERENNIALS

page 20

make your garden easier —

TIME-SAVING TIPS

You Can Use THIS YEAR! page 26

Garden Gate

June 2011 • Issue 99

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Hummingbird Magnets Bright Colors, Easy-Care Plants

— Your Garden Needs Salvias!

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'Caradonna'
Salvia

Annuals that BURST WITH BLOOMS SPRING TO FROST

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Just pick up a few annuals? Find out how to make them bloom all summer on page 6!

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Have a spot you don't know what to do with? Grow these tough and beautiful flowering ground covers.

ON THE COVER:

7 Stunning Salvias **14**

Whether you have sun or shade, there's sure to be one of these colorful flowers for your garden.

Time-Saving Design **26**

Use our 5 time-saving tips to shorten your to-do list and maximize your free time.

Prune Like a Pro! **Web** **28**

With our easy-to-follow photos and instructions, a few basic tools and a little time, your garden will be the envy of the neighborhood.

Spring Curb Appeal **32**

Show off this fresh and exciting season in a front yard filled with spring-blooming plants.



To find more tips, plans and step-by-step instructions, look for these online exclusives on our Web site.

www.GardenGateMagazine.com

- Find out which shrubs you can (and can't) prune in our **list**.
- Not sure how to figure the right measurements for your steps? Our **calculator** can help!



Save Money and Work Smarter!

NEW 100-page softcover book

Loaded With Tips from the readers and editors of Garden Gate magazine!

find this book and others at www.GardenGateStore.com

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ON THE COVER: Find out how to keep your 'Caradonna' salvia blooming longer on page 14. Photo: David C. McClure

ON THE BACK COVER: 'Comtesse de Bouchaud' clematis blooms in late spring. Photo: Jack Coyier

what's new

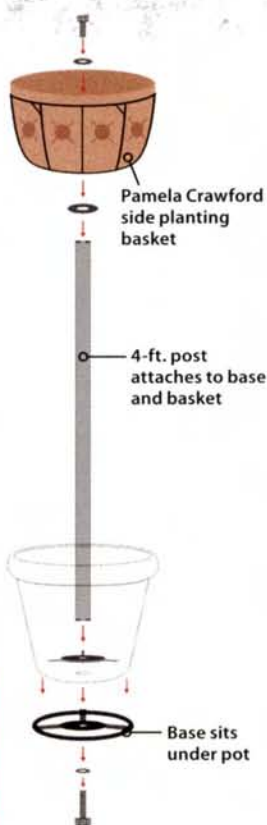
www.GardenGateStore.com

Many of these products (and more!) at our online store.

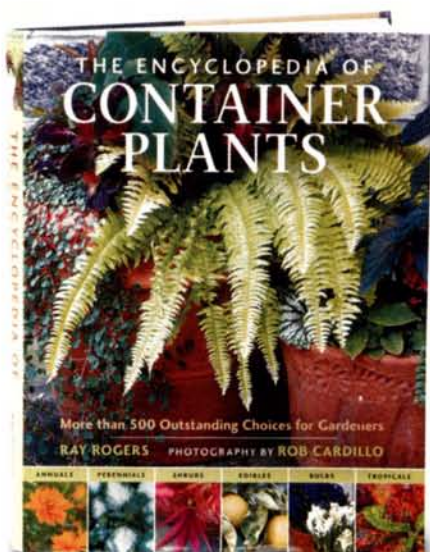
Basket columns

These metal basket columns are an easy way to add height to containers you already own. The kits come in two sizes: Small for containers 12 to 14 inches in diameter and large for anything bigger. Each kit comes with a cocoa basket liner, developed by garden designer Pamela Crawford, that has holes cut in the sides for easy planting. And it also includes the post, base and hardware.

Bottom line The kits are easy to put together and give you more space to plant!
Source Kinsman Company at www.kinsmangarden.com or 800-733-4146
Price \$44.95 for the small; \$49.95 for the large



*** quick fact** The basket in the photo won Frank Bartolomeo a \$1,000 Kinsman gift certificate last year. Send a photo of your Pamela Crawford basket container this year and you could do the same. Find out how to enter Kinsman's photo contest at www.kinsmangarden.com. The deadline is August 31, 2011.



The Encyclopedia of Container Plants

Get your container plantings off to a great start with *The Encyclopedia of Container Plants* by Ray Rogers. If there's a plant that can be grown in a container, you'll find out how to grow it in this book. What makes this book different is that each profile describes the plant's habit. That way, if you're not familiar with how it grows, you can get a good idea of how it will fit in with the other plants in the container.

Bottom line There are more than 500 plants profiled here with all you need to know to make them look great in your containers.
Source Local and online bookstores or www.GardenGateStore.com
Price \$34.95; hardcover; 344 pages

did you know?

Geraniums help control Japanese beetles

Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica*) feed on the foliage and flowers of more than 300 plant species. They've become quite a pest in gardens around much of the United States and Canada. Scientists have found that within 30 minutes of feeding on a geranium (*Pelargonium* spp.), especially flower petals, Japanese beetles roll over on their backs and can't move. In the lab, the beetles stay this way for 24 hours but outside, they're often consumed by predators before recovering. Research is in the early stages, but scientists are hoping to develop a way to use this geranium toxicity against Japanese beetles. For now, it can't hurt to plant geraniums near anything that Japanese beetles especially love, such as roses (*Rosa* spp.) and hollyhocks (*Alcea rosea*).

Mosquito sweet tooth

Did you know that both male and female mosquitoes feed on plant nectar or fruit juices for energy? It's true. And males don't bite. Only females feed on blood to help their eggs mature before laying. Want to keep all mosquitoes away? Check out the lantern at left.

Check your mini tiller!

If you have a Honda or Mantis mini tiller, there's a recall you should know about. A rubber grommet on the engine's fuel tank may crack. The leaking fuel is a serious fire hazard. The recalled Honda tiller is model number FG110 with serial numbers GCALT 1696948 to 1700567; Mantis tiller model numbers are 7262 and 7270 with serial numbers GCART-1165215 to 1171495. Call Honda at 888-888-3139, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday to make arrangements for getting the fuel tank assembly replaced free of charge. Or visit www.hondapowerequipment.com.

Patio Lantern



Keeping mosquitoes away usually involves smelly sprays or lotions. Here's a better solution: The ThermaCELL® Patio Lantern.

How does it work? A butane cartridge heats a mat soaked with allethrin, a synthetic insect repellent. As it heats, the mat releases the odorless repellent, creating a 15-foot circle of protection. The butane cartridges last up to 12 hours, the pads up to four hours. But you can turn the lantern on and off so they're not used up in one sitting. Refills are available in single packets of one butane cartridge and 3 pads, or in larger Summer Packs of 10 cartridges and 30 pads.

Bottom line There's no smell, no mess, no chemicals soaking into your skin — great!

Source The Home Depot® or ThermaCELL at www.thermacell.com

Price \$31.99; refills single \$6.99, Summer Pack \$49.99



'Summer Fiesta' agastache

There are so many flowers crammed onto each stem of this new agastache that hummingbirds will throw a party and invite their friends. 'Summer Fiesta' is 18 to 24 inches tall and wide. Make sure it gets full sun and well-drained soil for the best-looking plants. It's cold-hardy in USDA zones 6 to 10 and heat-tolerant in AHS zones 12 to 1.

Bottom line Densely packed flowers mean more hummingbirds and more color for the garden.

Source Sooner Plant Farm at www.soonerplantfarm.com